

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: *The Matanel Prize for a Book in Jewish Thought*

Year: 2025

Name of the Program: The Matanel Prize for a Book in Jewish Thought

Year of activity: 2025

Name of the report's writer: Efrat Even

Function of the report's writer: Academic Secretary, The Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities in the East

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Number of active participants in the program: 35 candidates

Give the actual state of the program (where the program stands at the date of the activity report, no more than ten lines):

This is the first year the award is being presented in collaboration with the Ben-Zvi Institute.

The main achievements during the last year of activity (main achievements, number of events, number of participants, etc.):

The prize will encourage scholars to publish books in Hebrew about Jewish Thought.

Given the large number of submissions, scholars need this support.

Two excellent books written by leading researchers have been selected for the award:

Prof. Zvi Mark, on his book 'Secrets of heaven and secrets of man: visionary and literary layers in Likkuti Moharan by R. Nahman of Bratslav as connected to redemption and to the Land of Israel (Bar-Ilan University Press, 2024)

Prof. Omer Michaelis, on his book 'Crisis discourse and the dynamics of tradition in Maimonides' oeuvre' (Magnes Press, 2023)

The evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with the precedent year, conclusions for the future...):

Leading and internationally well-known researchers served on the award committee.

The award ceremony was held at Yad Ben-Zvi (May 2025) in the presence of leading researchers in the field : Prof. Moshe Idel, Prof. Miriam Frenkel, Prof. Maoz Kahana, Prof. Menahem Lorberbaum and Prof. Avishai Bar Asher. The award was published on our website.

Provisional guidelines for the advancement of the program in the next year:

The call for applications will be distributed amongst the community of researchers in Israel and abroad

Please join the Evaluation Report, the Financial Report and the list of the participants to the program (as PDF documents)

Award Event costs:

400 \$ for a musical performance - 3 pieces by the composer Betty Klein

250\$ for refreshments

545\$ for the cabin and misc.

2,150 \$ for advertisement, graphic design and printing

1,300\$ for administrative and academic work of the Institute

Total 4,645 \$

Please join photos – as JPG files – and any link or any other document connected to the program which will seem to you relevant – as PDF document.

Photos will be sent separately

Please join a 5 minutes movie which presents your institution and the particular project supported by the Matanel Foundation. The movie should be accessible to the philanthropic world and to other potential donors.

There was no filming of the event